

## ABSTRACT

A, preferably external, storage device is provided with a button or other user input which, when activated, causes a launch of an application such as a backup of data from the host device onto the external storage device. Preferably, the external storage device includes a hard disk drive. Communication with the host device can be made using USB, 5 IEEE 1394, Ethernet, wireless links or other links. The external device is configured to allow the host to become aware of a button press, e.g., by a notification or interrupt technique, or by a polling technique.